

CS2 PRESENTS

DATA, DEMOCRACY & THE NEW SOCIAL FABRIC

SUMMER SCHOOL SEP 15—26, 2025



Complex
Social &
Computational
Systems

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

LOCATION—GRAZ, AUSTRIA

DATES—SEP 15 TO 26, 2025

APPLICATION DEADLINE

—APRIL 13, 2025

The internet and social media have reshaped the social fabric, creating tensions with democracy. This summer school explores whether these tensions can be reconciled—or whether systemic change is required in democracy, social technologies, or both.



APPLY

SICSS.IO/2025/GRAZ/
OR VIA THE QR CODE

THEMES

PHILOSOPHICAL FOUNDATIONS OF
DEMOCRACY AND SOCIAL NETWORKS

IMPACT OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON
DEMOCRACY AND SOCIETY AT LARGE

THE ETHICS OF SCIENCE USING
LARGE SCALE SOCIAL DATASETS

EPISTEMICALLY SOUND USE OF
SOCIAL MEDIA DATA AND MODELS

THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY
AND THE INTERNET

PROGRAM FOCUS

This summer school examines the growing divergence between democratic systems and the social fabric reshaped by technologies like social media. Participants will explore the nature of this tension and the types of solutions that it may demand.

Will our old democratic systems hold up? Or does plotting a safe evolutionary path for humanity demand we update democracy, change social media, or both?

Blending political philosophy and computational data science, the program starts from the conceptual foundations of democracy and builds up to contemporary discussions on the interactions between social media and democracy, the ethical role of science and scientists in the digital age, and new ideas for the future of governance and social media.

AUDIENCE

This program is designed for Masters, Doctoral students, and Postdocs in computational social science, computer science, data science, maths, or related fields. Students from a social science background with basic programming skills are also encouraged to apply.

KEY DETAILS

Application deadline: April 13 2025.

Decision notification: April 27 2025.

There is no fee for the school but travel and accomodation are not covered.

We may provide some financial support grants for transit, hotels, and potential VISA fees. Follow link for further details.

SCHEDULE

WEEK ONE lectures, moderated panel discussions, tutorials, group discussions.

MON Welcome day.

TUE Foundations, justifications, and normative value of democracy.

WED The link between social technologies and democracy.

THU Epistemically and ethically sound science on social media data.

FRI New ideas for the future of governance and social technologies.

WEEK TWO group project work, supported by our group and invited project leaders.

MON -FRI Students will be supported to use our large social media datasets, including: all of Reddit, 4chan's /pol/, Voat, Telegram, the .win network, HackerNews, Parler, and more...

APPLY & FURTHER DETAILS



[SICSS.IO/2025/GRAZ/](https://sicss.io/2025/graaz/)

Organised by



Complex
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THE ORGANISERS

This school was created by Tim Booker, Elisabeth Höldrich, and Mathias Angermaier at the Complex Social & Computational Systems Lab, UniGraz, Austria. Contact us at DDNSF@uni-graz.at.